

CMS Announces Special Open Door Forum to Discuss the Claims Crossover Process and Coordination of Benefits Agreement

When: June 17, 2004, 2:00 to 3:30 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time

The CMS has decided to streamline the claims crossover process to better serve our customers. Under CMS' consolidated crossover process, trading partners that include Medigap plans, employer supplemental plans, self-insured plans, TRICARE for Life, Title XIX State Medicaid Agencies, and others will no longer have to sign separate agreements with individual Medicare contractors to receive Medicare paid claims data for the purpose of calculating their secondary payment liability.

Trading partners will now enter into one national Coordination of Benefits Agreement (COBA) with CMS' consolidated claims crossover contractor, the Coordination of Benefits Contractor (COBC), to receive Medicare paid claims data. Through the consolidated claims crossover process, trading partners will no longer need to submit separate eligibility files to CMS' local Medicare contractors to identify their covered members nor will they receive numerous crossover files and separate invoices from these entities. Trading partners will continue to prepare eligibility files using the same specifications that are in effect today. The COBC will transmit claims to trading partners in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) ANSI-X12N 837 COB (version 4010-A1) and National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Batch 5.1 formats. All eligibility file-based trading partners will be transitioned from their existing crossover agreements during the period from October 1, 2004, to April 30, 2005.

The COBA crossover consolidation initiative will initially be implemented on a small-scale during the period from July 6, 2004, to October 1, 2004. During this time, approximately ten COBA trading partners that will serve as beta-site testers will participate in a COBA pilot testing period. These partners will continue to receive crossover claims from the local Medicare contractors, consistent with the terms of existing agreements, and will also receive claims from the COBC, consistent with the terms of the COBA. During the pilot testing period, COBA beta testers will be invoiced only for claims crossed to them by the local Medicare contractors. Implementation of the COBA process will begin on a larger scale in October 2004.

CMS is interested in holding this Special Open Door Forum to inform you of the new COBA process and to get your feedback/concerns regarding its implementation.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS (Prior to the forum):

CMS requests that representatives who are interested in submitting questions or comments prior to the Special Open Door Forum, may do so via e-mail to coba@cms.hhs.gov by **3:00 PM (EST) Thursday, June 10, 2004**, or bring a hard copy of written material for collection at this forum, if comments are not available at the time of the deadline.

At this forum, CMS will attempt to answer or otherwise respond to any questions or comments that you may have after you have had the opportunity to hear CMS' presentation on the consolidation of the crossover process. (This input may be also submitted to CMS via email to coba@cms.hhs.gov after the forum.)

Both in-person participants, and those participating by telephone will be given an opportunity to participate. Depending upon the number of participants, it is likely that there will be a limit on the time available for each participant to speak, which will be determined at the forum. CMS will attempt to accommodate as many participants as possible that may wish to participate.

Information on Participation:

There are two ways to participate, by phone or "in person."

1. To participate by phone:

Dial: 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID: **7021696**

Persons participating by phone are not required to RSVP unless they wish to specifically register to comment or ask a question during the forum.

* (If you plan to provide input, make a statement, or ask a question during the forum by telephone, please follow the RSVP instructions below.)

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>.

A Relay Communications Assistant will help you.

2. To participate "in person" at the CMS Baltimore site, an RSVP is required.

To RSVP, please send email to coba@cms.hhs.gov by close of business, June 10, 2004.

Please send us:

- your name
- the name of your organization
- your contact information (telephone, address, email)

If attending in person, please arrive no later than **1:30 PM (EST)** to allow time for parking and passing through security checkpoints. Photo identification is required at security points.

ADDRESS:

CMS Single Site Building
Auditorium
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Map & Directions: <http://cmsnet.cms.hhs.gov/hpages/ocsq/cmsdirections-north.htm>

ENCORE Audio recording of the forum:

"Encore" is a recording of this Open Door Forum that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conf. ID **7021696** beginning at least 2 hours after the call has ended. The recording expires after 4 full days.

For Forum Schedule updates, Listserv registration and Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor/

Thank you.